

# **SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET**

## **Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services**

*This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the City of Arlington. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2003.*

### **Residents of the City of Arlington**

#### **Characteristics of Admissions**

In FY 2003, there were 115,896 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 0.2% (239) of these admissions reside in the City of Arlington.<sup>1</sup> **Please note that these statistics represent only admissions, and can represent a figure larger than the actual number of individuals.** In FY 2003, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the City of Arlington reported the following characteristics:

- 66.5% (159) were male and 33.5% (80) were female.
- 70.7% (169) were between the ages of 21-39.
- 91.2% (218) were white non-Latino, and 5.4% (13) were Latino<sup>1</sup>.
- 65.3% (156) were never married, 16.3% (39) were married, and 18.4% (44) reported not to be married now.
- 12.6% (30) had less than high school education, 53.1% (127) completed high school, and 34.3% (82) had more than high school education.
- 31.0% (74) were employed.
- 9.2% (22) were homeless.
- 28.5% (68) had prior mental health treatment.

#### **Primary Substance of Use**

At admission clients identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the City of Arlington.

<b>Table 1</b>					
<b>Primary Drug by District and State FY 2003</b>					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
City	47%	33%	4%	3%	2%
State	43%	38%	6%	4%	4%

#### **Substances Used in Past Year**

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

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<sup>1</sup> To protect client confidentiality, statistics representing clients under 18 years of age, black non-Latino and other racial categories have been omitted from this fact sheet.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

<b>Table 2</b> <b>Number of admissions Reporting Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2003</b>							
<b>City of Arlington</b>							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
<b>FY '96</b>	275	232	88	90	49	74	49
<b>FY '97</b>	287	223	84	57	42	81	48
<b>FY '98</b>	317	262	101	72	34	85	52
<b>FY '99</b>	326	253	110	89	45	110	86
<b>FY '00</b>	337	266	98	89	46	112	81
<b>FY '01</b>	287	217	87	76	26	89	71
<b>FY '02</b>	260	170	55	54	24	104	81
<b>FY '03</b>	239	158	59	47	21	92	76

### Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the City of Arlington and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

